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BE SIR RICHARD BRANSON'S CO-PILOT {page 06}

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BOSTON
Thursday, August 23, 2012

Mayor Menino challenged Beantown to lose 1 million pounds in 2012 but allows Wendy's to give out free bacon cheeseburgers on City Hall Plaza today Says fast food is OK sometimes, just not seven days a week Supports lifestyle change {page 02}

Welcome to Bacontown

music

Dropkicks: The boys are back in town

Band on their upcoming album and making big songs for you to sing along to as they hit big venues {page 16}

Harry displays royal jewels

When you're a prince, what happens in Vegas has the tendency to not exactly stay in Vegas {page 08}

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In the news

$2.8M

People scamming the state's public assistance programs collected more than $2.8 million in fraudulently obtained welfare and health benefits during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2012, the state auditor's Bureau of Special Investigations recently uncovered. The newly uncovered fraud brings the total to more than $5.5 million for the year, according to a report released yesterday, which also said that 546 people defrauded the state welfare system.

Today's local tweet

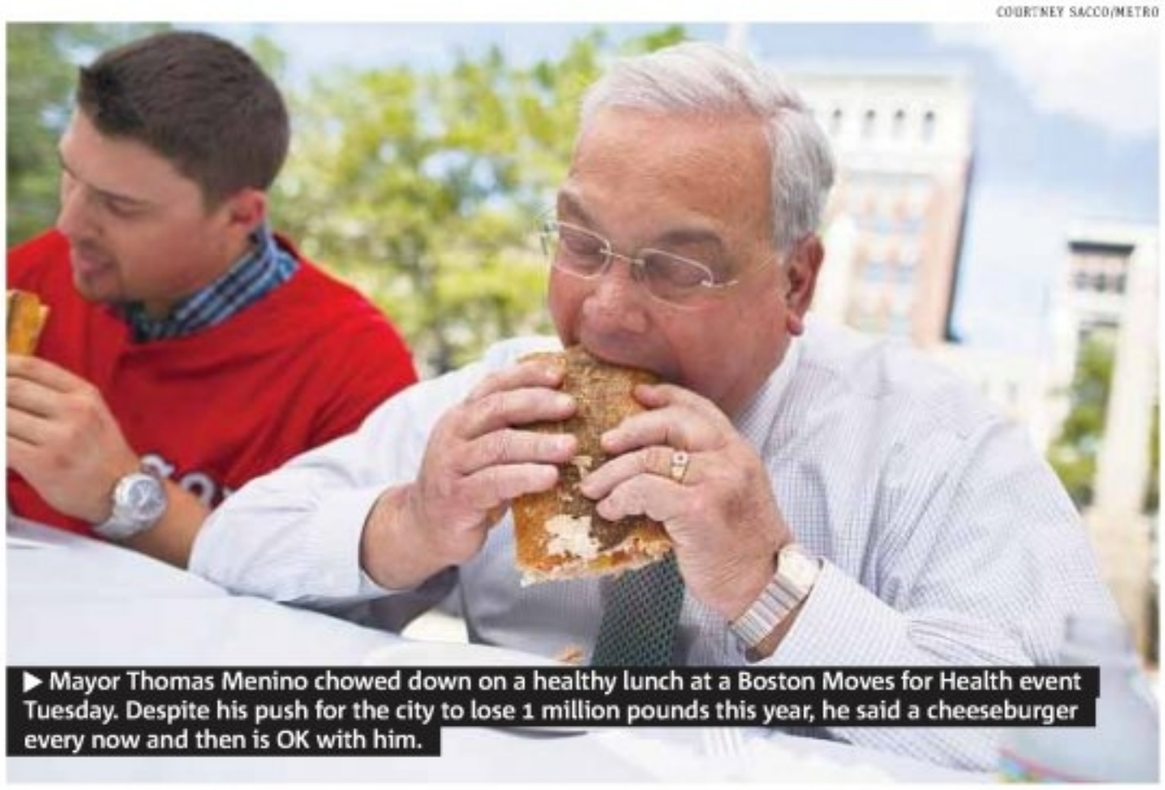
"Woman profusely apologizes when her dog splashes people in #copley fountain yet continues to throw his ball in the water for him to fetch...."

@GAVRIIL42 IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH THE LACK OF FOUNTAIN ETIQUETTE

Smells like bacon

The Hub will cheat on its 'Moves for Health' diet today Hundreds of free 'Son of Baconators' to be given away today at City Hall Plaza

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO



▶ Mayor Thomas Menino chowed down on a healthy lunch at a Boston Moves for Health event Tuesday. Despite his push for the city to lose 1 million pounds this year, he said a cheeseburger every now and then is OK with him.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino has challenged Boston residents to lose one million pounds and move 10 million miles this year, so those of you who have signed on might want to steer clear of City Hall Plaza today.

Wendy's will be "calling all bacon lovers" there between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the fast food chain will hand out free "Son of Baconator" sandwiches.

"There will be games and challenges focused around bacon, playing off the theme that 'bacon is huge right now.'" said Stephanie Glessner, a spokeswoman for Wendy's.

Not only will there be free Son of Baconators, but there will also be Wendy's Frosties, gift cards and bacon-themed T-shirts and merchandise.

On Tuesday, Menino sat down for a healthy lunch with two dozen teens who worked with local chef Didi Emmons to fix a pair of healthy dishes for him and Boston Red Sox catcher Ryan Lavarnway.

That event was meant to raise awareness about healthy eating for local youth as part of Boston Moves for Health.

When asked about today's event, and how it fits in with his vigorous Boston Moves for Health challenge, the mayor said, "A cheeseburger is not bad once in a while. But not if it's a seven-day-a-week thing. If you want to have one on occasion, there's nothing wrong with that. The problem you have when you go on a diet — you starve yourself — and when you break out, you just go crazy. You need that balance of food intake."

Like all entities that rent out the City Hall Plaza, Wendy's obtained a permit to sling the free burgers there, and paid an undisclosed rental fee that the city will put toward charity.

"This is a promotion that will help us raise some money for some youth programs. So yeah, we are going to have some bacon cheeseburgers on the plaza, but also the money we get from that will educate young people about having a healthier lifestyle. So it's a balancing act," Menino said.

There was no bacon in sight at Tuesday's health-conscious lunch. Instead, the mayor was treated to handmade sandwiches and a fresh slaw, both created from local ingredients purchased by the teens at the Copley Square Farmers Market.

"It's not about not eating any particular thing, it's about really making sure that for the most part people have healthy choices, which is what the mayor has done with Boston Moves for Health," said Barbara Ferrer, executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission said of today's bacon-friendly event. "It's about a lot of education and a lot of opportunity. We never say 'don't have this, don't have that.'"

Yesterday, at the City Hall Plaza Farmers Market, Ben Walsh enjoyed an ear of corn as he manned the Ocean Ave. Pops stand there.

"People can make their own choices, but personally, I think they are disgusting," Walsh said of the sandwiches. When asked what he though about the company slinging the free bacon burgers in front of the Hub's command center — also the same spot as the health-forward farmers market — he said, "I'm not surprised at all. Ideally they wouldn't."

Eric Doyle, of Q's Nuts, said that while he doesn't eat fast food, he doesn't judge people who might line up today for free burgers.

"I don't think it's right to tell people what to put in their bodies," he said. "I eat really healthy, but I smoke cigarettes, so I have no moral high ground to talk about somebody else."

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About the Ultimate Baconator Challenge:

The Wendy's mobile will make its way across the nation, stopping in 20 towns and tailgating at a handful of college football games "to put consumers to the test" with bacon-themed challenges and

give away more than 30,000 free Sons of Baconator. METRO/MR

Son of Baconator by the numbers

- **4** strips of bacon
- **2** 2.25-ounce beef patties
- **700** calories
- **390** calories from fat
- **43** grams of total fat
- **130** mg of cholesterol
- **40** grams of carbohydrates
- **9** grams of sugar

Quoted

"A cheeseburger is not bad once in a while. But not if it's a seven-day-a-week thing. If you want to have one on occasion, there's nothing wrong with that. The problem you have when you go on a diet — you starve yourself ... You need that balance of food intake."

MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO

Water main break creates large hole

MATTAPAN. A water main break yesterday afternoon in Mattapan created a traffic nightmare.

The main broke near the intersection of Blue Hill Avenue and Morton Street and created a large hole in the roadway.

Morton Street outbound was shut down as crews worked to make repairs.

Blue Hill Avenue heading outbound was also restricted to one lane. METRO

Police search for shooting suspect

Boston Police are searching for a suspect who allegedly shot and injured a man in Charlestown Tuesday night.

The 23-year-old victim suffered gunshot wounds after the incident, around 11:54 p.m. Tuesday at 50 Tufts St. in Charlestown, according to police.

He was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital with what police describe as non-life threatening injuries.

Boston Police said they are actively investigating the shooting. METRO

Council passes redistricting plan

BOSTON. The City Council passed a controversial redistricting plan that minority groups may challenge in court.

The council voted 7 to 6 yesterday in favor of the plan to redistrict the city's voting districts, according to the Globe.

Some groups have been critical of the plan because they said it concentrates minorities into only a few districts. METRO/BOSTON.COM

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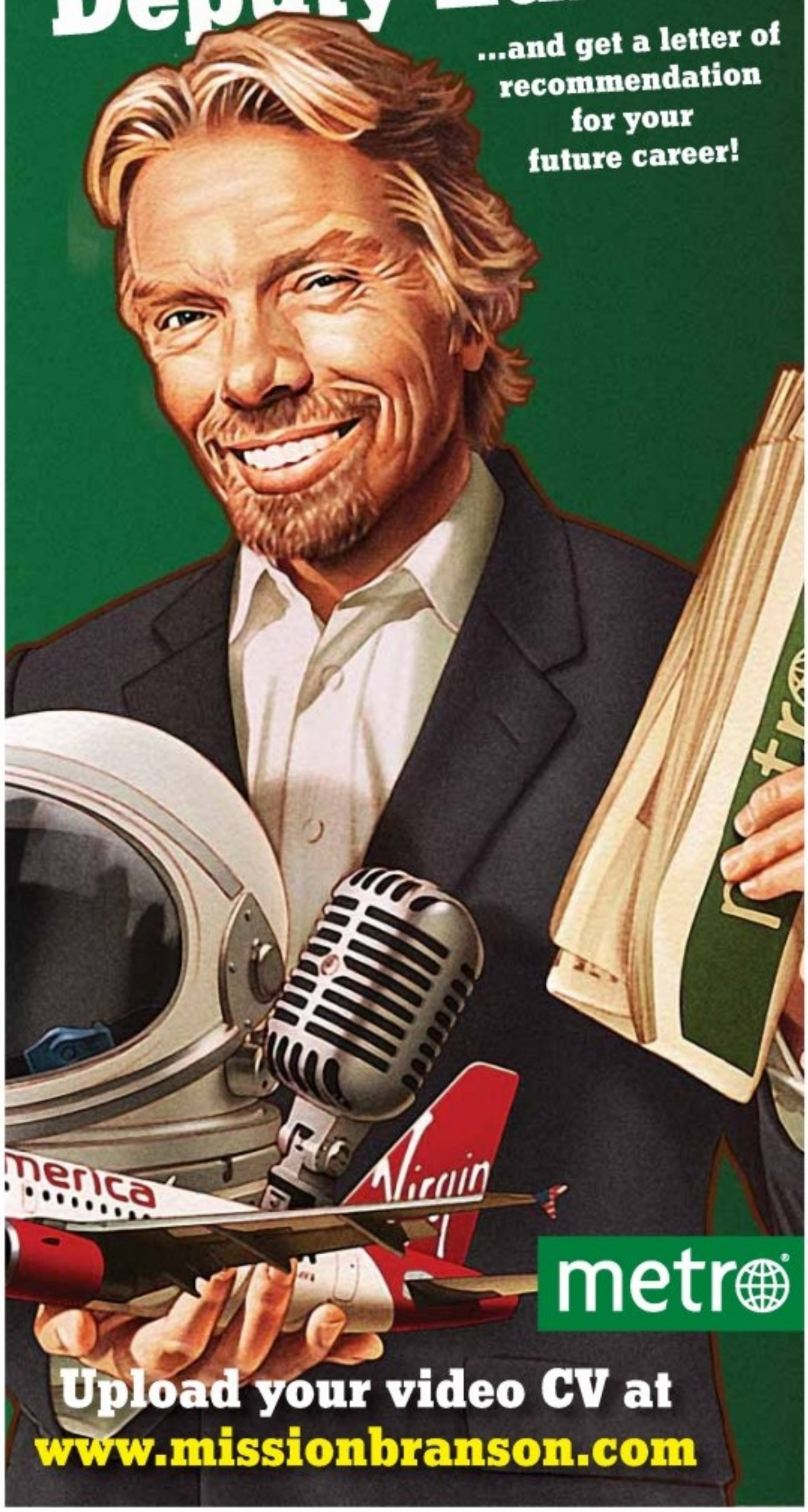

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More answers sought after man fatally shot by police

Friends of the 26-year-old man who was fatally shot by police were in disbelief yesterday and were left wondering what happened a day after a Boston police officer shot him.

Friends identified the man as Burrell Ramsey-White and said he lived on Yarmouth Street, about a block from where he was shot by police Tuesday in the South End.

"There's an explanation due to his mother," said one woman who described herself as a friend but did not want to disclose her name.

Police provided few additional details yesterday about the incident that started around 5:45 p.m. on Dartmouth Street. Officers tried to pull over Ramsey-White in a Cadillac. A short foot chase followed, and he allegedly produced a gun, police said. Officers then shot him once in the chest on Yarmouth Place.

Commissioner Ed Davis would not say yesterday why Ramsey-White was being pulled over.

"You may find that unusual at this point in time," Davis said. "We will not confirm the actual reasons for the stop until we interview the officers, which will be [today]."

The officer who shot Ramsey-White is a five-year veteran. Both officers involved in the incident are on paid administrative leave and were taken to a hospital for stress after the shooting.

Davis did say that the owner of the car was stopped on Saturday and arrested for possession of heroin.

He also said the victim was in a Roslindale home where an unsolved fatal shooting took place earlier this month. Four men were shot and one died.

A gun was recovered at Tuesday's scene and is being examined by investigators, Davis said.

Ramsey-White also has a criminal record, but friends yesterday remembered him for his joking personality.

Witness wanted

- Commissioner Ed Davis asked for a witness to Tuesday's officer-involved shooting to come forward.
- A man was quoted in the Globe as watching a woman try to trip the suspect as he fled on foot past her.
- Davis said police would like to talk to her as part of their investigation.

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COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

▶ Dozens of police responded to Tuesday's shooting.

▶ Cannon

T police nab wanted man

BOSTON. T police monitoring fare evasion at Downtown Crossing on Tuesday nabbed a man suspected of attempted murder.

Terrance Cannon, 32, of Boston, was arrested around 6 p.m. after MBTA police recognized him from a wanted poster.

Police said Cannon was holding an open pint of alcohol and falsely identified himself.

Cannon allegedly had cocaine on him when he was taken into custody on warrants for armed assault with intent to murder, unarmed robbery and driving without a license. **METRO**

Dozens rescued from T elevator

BOSTON. More than two dozen MBTA customers were rescued from an elevator that was stuck at South Station around 4:25 p.m. yesterday.

An T spokesman said the customers were in the elevator for 36 minutes and no one requested medical attention.

The Fire Department tweeted that the elevator was overcrowded. **METRO**

Subsidized care to cover smoking cessation

BOSTON. People who purchase health coverage through Commonwealth Care and are looking to kick the habit will now have smoking cessation programs paid for by their health insurance plan, according to the State House News Service.

Thr program will be marketed this fall. **SHNS**

Suffolk Downs to pay fine for horse manure pollution

Runoff flows into Boston Harbor tributary Fine of $1 million for the racetrack seeking casino approval

After years of allowing polluted wastewater — including horse manure, urine and bedding material — to flow into a creek that serves as a tributary of Boston Harbor, Suffolk Downs agreed to pay a federal fine of more than $1 million.

The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Justice and track operator Sterling Suffolk Racecourse LLC allowed for a consent decree that was filed in federal court in Boston yesterday.

"This settlement reduces a major source of pollution into Boston Harbor," said Cynthia Giles, an assistant administrator for the EPA.

Besides the penalty, the racetrack located in East Boston and Revere was ordered to pay more than $3 million to prevent polluted water from entering nearby waterways and perform three environmental projects worth about $742,000 to provide water quality monitoring, according to the EPA.

$1.25M

The more than $1 million fine was a civil penalty assessed for violations of the Clean Water Act.

In 2008, the agency ordered the racetrack to reduce the pollutants it was discharging. Inspectors observed stormwater contaminated with manure and turbid, brown runoff being discharged from the facility to Sales Creek, the agency said.

Sampling indicated elevated levels of pollutants, including ammonia, suspended solids and bacteria, the agency said.

Suffolk Downs Chief Operating Officer Chip Tuttle said the track has cooperated with authorities since the issue surfaced five years ago and took substantial measures, including construction of a new $3.5 million drainage system, to address the conditions.

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Charlie. On the T

▶ MBTA mascot, Charlie, debuts at South Station yesterday.

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

Oh, Charlie! You're such a card.

The MBTA's mascot made his first "in the flesh" appearance yesterday, strolling around the Hub to promote the CharlieCard and the T's new CharlieCard Store in Downtown Crossing. A few hours after cruising around on a swan boat, Charlie took a walk down to the Red Line at South Station where he waved to riders, handed out CharlieCards and posed for photos. MORGAN ROUSSEAU

Charlie chatter on Twitter:

- "How long until the new #MBTA mascot Charlie is caught sleeping on the job? #boston," — **@DeanReddington.**
- "So I leave Boston for a day and #mbta comes out with a creepy Charlie today..." — **@jaykelly26**
- "Newsflash @MBTAgm: a giant Charlie mascot on T won't charm riders into forgetting recent fare hikes & route cuts..." — **@silverspeakers**
- "I was under the impression he never returned. MT @GlobeMoskowitz Charlie, in a sweltering costume, at Kenmore. #MBTA" — **@SchwartzHub**
- "Newest #mbta fare evasion punishment - One summer day in the #Charlie suit. " — **@NathanSpencer**
- "I hope his face is punch-proof..." — **@michaelFhurley**

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Want to be Branson's deputy?

Sir Richard Branson, one of the world's leading entrepreneurs, will be the guest editor of Metro on Oct. 3 — and one lucky reader will have the chance to spend the day with him as his deputy editor.

Branson, founder of the Virgin Group, wants his deputy-for-the-day to have a sharp business mind; to show passion, creativity and personality and, like the man himself, to be a thrill-seeker

If you think you fit the bill, upload a video resume at www.missionbranson.com.

The winner will spend the day with Branson at Metro's New York offices on Oct. 3 and will be his guest at the World Business Forum in New York City.

300
The Virgin Group has created more than 300 branded companies.

The prize includes return airfare to New York City and a minimum three-night hotel stay in the city between Oct. 1-6.

Branson will also write you a personal letter of recommendation should you win, and his company's business arm, Virgin Unite, will give our winner free business advice.

Branson has become world-renowned as an adventurer, a risk-taker and a charmer.

Now meet Sir Richard Branson, global guest editor of Metro. Readers love people living the dream, and Branson, an inspiration, will use his pages to share his passions and inspire a new generation to think about how to better the world (while making a profit). It makes sense that the man who wants to be the "World's Best" everything is teaming with the World's Largest Newspaper.

The theme of his day in New York City will be 'Risky Business' as he and his deputy choose stories to be featured in all of Metro's editions around the world — that's more than 15 million readers across the globe. METRO

How to enter

Upload a video resume telling us why you should be Sir Richard's deputy for the day at **www.missionbranson.com.**

The contest is open between now and Sept. 10, 2012.

Submit a video, maximum one minute in length via a YouTube link or directly from your webcam, in English or with English subtitles. Treat this video as you would a print CV — introduce yourself, your experience and your skill set. But also — impress Sir Richard Branson. What makes you unique and exciting?

GETTY IMAGES

▶ It makes sense that the man who wants to be the "World's Best" everything is teaming with the World's Largest Newspaper.

In the news

Lawyer for ex-Penn State president blasts Freeh report

PHILADELPHIA. A lawyer for Penn State's ex-president assailed a report on the university sex abuse scandal yesterday as a myth filled with unsupported and outrageous conclusions against former university leader Graham Spanier.

Timothy K. Lewis, a former federal judge and prosecutor who represents Spanier, criticized the author of that report, Louis Freeh, also a former judge and a former FBI chief, who was hired by the university to investigate the scandal that rocked U.S. college football and Pennsylvania's biggest university.

Spanier was fired after Jerry Sandusky was accused of sexually abusing 10 boys over 15 years. REUTERS

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— BARRIE ATKIN, management consultant; BU certificate awarded 2009

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Middle class net worth plummets

The U.S. middle class has shrunk drastically over the last 10 years as Americans' net worth has plunged, wages declined and standards of living slipped away, according to a report released yesterday.

Middle-income earners, long seen as the solid center of the country, are pessimistic and place the blame squarely on U.S. lawmakers, banks and big business, the findings by the Pew Research Center showed.

Since 2001, median household income has fallen from $72,956 to $69,487 in 2010, the report said.

The median household net worth, which is the value of assets minus debt, dropped from $129,582 to $93,150 over the same 10-year period, according to Pew, which analyzed U.S. data along with its own survey of nearly 1,300 adults who consider themselves middle class.

"America's middle class has endured its worst decade in modern history."
RESEARCHERS

52%
More than half of those polled said Obama's policies would help the middle class in a second term.

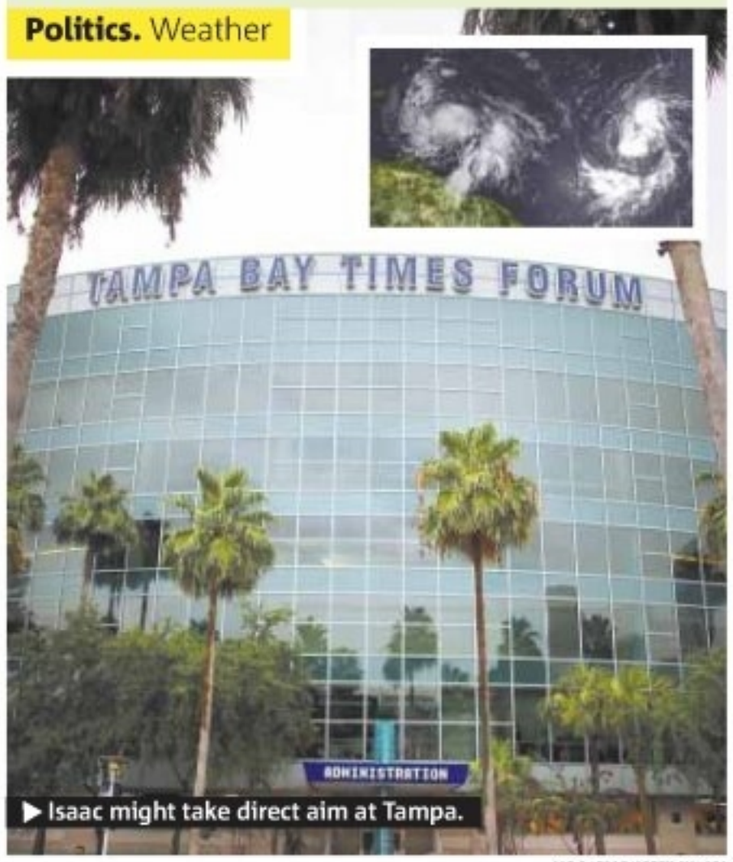
42%
Forty-two percent said Romney would benefit middle income Americans if elected.

The nonpartisan research group's snapshot comes in the midst of a close presidential campaign that has become in part a referendum on whether President Barack Obama's policies over the last few years have helped Americans as the nation struggles to recover from deep economic woes.

His Republican rival Mitt Romney, a multimillionaire former private equity executive who is one of the richest men ever to run for president, has based his campaign on his pledge to build jobs and boost the economy.

Pew's survey found more of the middle class support Obama's policies than Romney's. **REUTERS**

Politics. Weather



▶ Isaac might take direct aim at Tampa.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Storm threatens GOP convention

Tropical Storm Isaac swirled over the Caribbean yesterday and was forecast to become a hurricane as it moved on a track that would put it off the coast of Florida on Monday, the opening day of the Republican National Convention in Tampa. REUTERS

Akin leaves door open to quitting race

WASHINGTON. Republican Representative Todd Akin left open the possibility that he might drop out of the Missouri Senate race, but remained defiant against "party bosses" who want him to quit after controversial comments on rape and abortion.

"I'm never going to say everything that could possibly happen. I don't know the future," Akin said on ABC's "Good Morning America," opening the door to a possible exit from the race.

Akin apologized again in multiple television interviews yesterday for his earlier comments about "legitimate rape," but said he intended to remain in the race to be able to promote his staunch anti-abortion beliefs and to respect the wishes of Missouri voters. **REUTERS**

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— NICHOLAS FAY, real estate VP; BU certificate awarded 2011

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@JimGaffigan
Boy, those people older than us and younger than us sure are dumb, right?

@SteveMartinToGo
Due to audience demand, I will now be closed on Mondays.

@birbigs (Mike Birbiglia)
Ate a chocolate croissant, but it had so much air in it that I'm going to pretend it never happened. ?

@robdelaney
You're a prince; what are you supposed to NOT party naked in Vegas? It's in your job description! Not even news. #FreeHarry

Steve Martin

Prince Harry parties like a Las Vegas pro

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

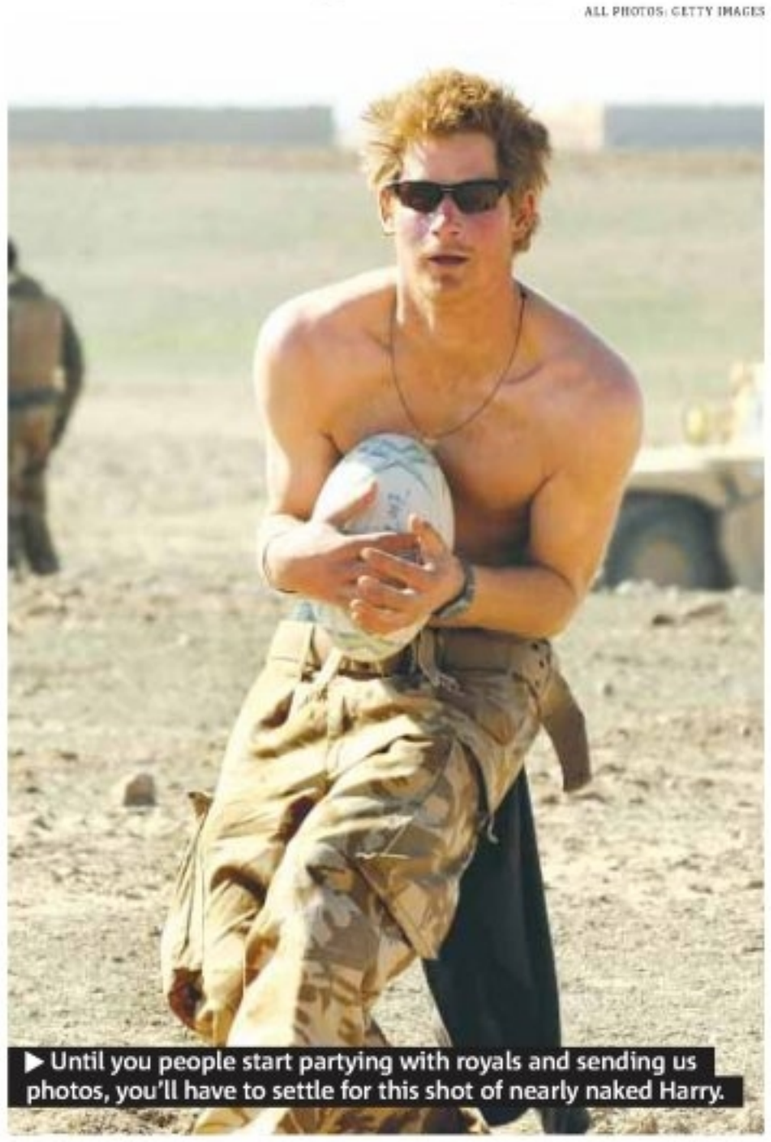
Prince Harry is learning the hard way that "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas" doesn't apply to drunk, naked members of the royal family.

Harry, you see, had a way better weekend than the rest of us. After spending Friday afternoon poolside, he stopped by the bar of the MGM Grand, where he met some girls — with cameraphones — who were, in fact, interested in partying upstairs with a prince.

According to TMZ, it was a game of "strip pool" that led to the photos of Harry — completely naked except for a necklace and wonderfully awkward tan lines — hugging an equally naked girl from behind and holding his crotch.

Harry stuck around Las Vegas long enough to challenge Olympic swimmer **Ryan Lochte** to a race through a pool full of girls in bikinis (Harry lost, in some very vague sense of the word), but was quickly summoned back to Buckingham Palace when the photos went viral.

Now, we don't envy having to explain the rules of strip pool to **Queen Elizabeth**. But all in all? We'd say his weekend was well worth the international hangover.



▶ Until you people start partying with royals and sending us photos, you'll have to settle for this shot of nearly naked Harry.

We do object!

After briefly dating, **Avril Lavigne** and Nickelback frontman **Chad Kroeger** are engaged. It gets worse: According to People, their relationship began when they were in the studio collaborating on Lavigne's new album.

This isn't the first unholy pop culture union for Lavigne. She was previously married to Sum 41 frontman **Deryck Whibley**, and has "Brody" tattooed on her ribcage, courtesy of a relationship with reality TV black hole **Brody Jenner**.

So, apparently, no: We haven't forgiven her for bringing "Sk8er Boi" into this world.

▶ Avril hasn't washed her face since 2004.

▶ We know, Chad — we know.

LL Cool J is his own security system

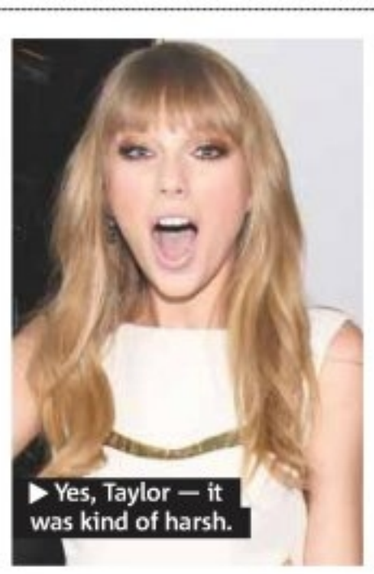
Out of all the houses to break into in L.A., someone picked **LL Cool J**'s early Wednesday morning. The rapper — who is 6'2" and mostly biceps — handily took down the intruder and held him until police arrived.

"LL Cool J, and his family, are safe and thank everyone for their thoughts and concern," his spokesman said in a statement. "As a father, husband and citizen, he is committed to keeping his family safe and is cooperating with authorities on this private matter."

Talking points

Taylor Swift, wedding crasher

Taylor Swift and boyfriend **Conor Kennedy** (yes, one of those Kennedys) stopped by his cousin's wedding over the weekend, but apparently they weren't on the guest list — and mother-of-the-bride **Victoria Gifford Kennedy** isn't amused. "I personally went up to Ms. Swift, whose entrance distracted the entire event, politely introduced myself to her and asked her as nicely as I could to leave," Kennedy tells the Boston Herald. "It was like talking to a ghost. She seemed to look right past me."



▶ Yes, Taylor — it was kind of harsh.

Lohan questioned in jewelry theft

Lindsay Lohan was reportedly questioned by police after jewelry went missing from a Hollywood Hills home where she had spent the night, according to TMZ. Lohan was reportedly among several guests who stayed overnight after a small party at the home Sunday night. The next morning, the house's owner claimed expensive jewelry had been stolen and called the police. Sources says Lohan was very cooperative with police but had nothing to do with the theft.

Cruise-Holmes divorce official

Tom Cruise's five-year marriage to **Katie Holmes** is officially over after a New York judge signed off on the divorce settlement earlier this week, according to E! News. The finalization comes just a month and a half after Holmes initially filed for divorce.

JLo eyes up Vegas

Jennifer Lopez may be the next music luminary to take up residence in Las Vegas with a long-running show, according to Hollyscoop. The entertainment company Live Nation has reportedly approached Lopez about a long-term engagement, and her rep concedes it's not out of the question.

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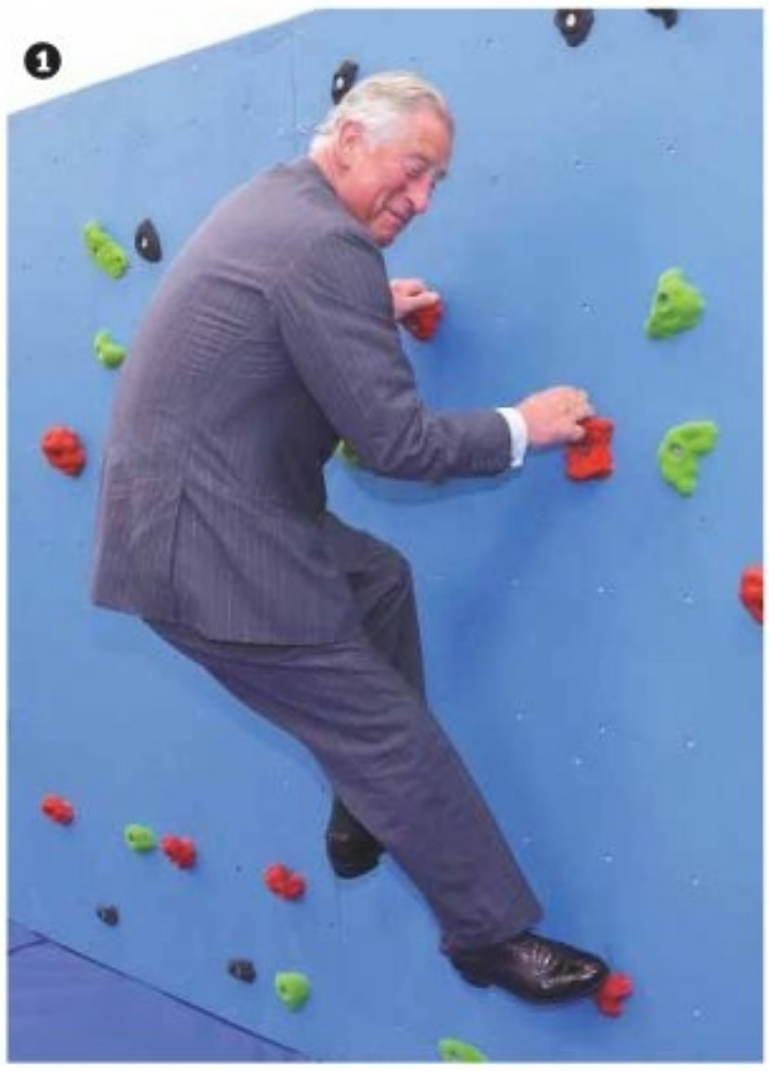

A royal mess

We get it, Prince Harry: No one wants his grandmother to see photos of him partying naked in Vegas (see page 8). But you're not the first member of the royal family to appear in questionable photographs.

1 **Prince Charles** got stuck on a climbing wall — in a suit — last month.

2 At the Olympics, **Prince William** made the mistake of sitting next to **David Beckham** and his glorious hair.

3 It's not **Fergie**'s fault — she married **Prince Andrew** in the thick of the '80s. Now, as for those photos of her having her toes sucked while topless by the pool? That one's on her.

4 **Princess Beatrice** infamously wore this hat — this hat! — to **Will** and **Kate**'s wedding last year.

5 She keeps her clothes on, but **Queen Elizabeth** has been known to enjoy a drink.

1, 5: CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES
2: DILIAK FINKEY/GETTY IMAGES
3: TIM GRAHAM/GETTY IMAGES
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TV watch list

GLENN WATSON/USA NETWORK

▶ Jeffrey Donovan stars as Michael and Gabrielle Anwar as Fiona on "Burn Notice."

'Burn Notice'

DRAMA. Things get tricky for Michael and company when their target — a deadly assassin — tracks them down first.

Midseason finale, 9 p.m., USA

'Anger Management'

COMEDY. Charlie scares off his friend-with-benefits. That's Charlie Goodson the character, not Charlie Sheen the actor.
Season finale, 9:30 p.m., FX

'The American Bible Challenge'

GAME SHOW. Test your Sunday school lesson retention with host Jeff Foxworthy.
Series premiere, 8 p.m., GSN

'Project Runway'

REALITY. The designers are given models in need of a makeover — not the size 0 kind, but everyday ladies.
9 p.m., Lifetime

AMBER RAY

RASHIDA JONES TAKES CONTROL

▶ Rashida Jones wears the co-writing, production and acting hats on "Celeste and Jesse Forever."

The 'Parks and Recreation' star wanted a juicy role, so she just wrote one for herself The end result is the hilarious 'Celeste and Jesse Forever'

"Parks and Recreation" star Rashida Jones has found the secret to landing a juicy, complex leading role: Write it yourself. Her first stab at screenwriting — with partner Will McCormack — is "Celeste and Jesse Forever," a funny and realistic look at former high school sweethearts (Jones and Andy Samberg) who hit their 30s and decide to split up.

Was it ever difficult to balance being both an actress and co-writer on this project?
I would say really the only time it came into play was the three years of trying to get the movie made. Being an executive producer and a co-writer and knowing it was such a great part for me to be able to play, it was hard to keep taking the blows of the thing getting set up and then the thing crumbling. It was tough, but once I got on set, for me my only challenge that I wanted to tackle was doing a good job in the role and carrying the film, so I had to really shut all the other stuff down, you know?

"The middle class is disappearing, and it's happening in movies, too."
JONES, ON GETTING AN INDEPENDENT FILM MADE

Why do you think it's so difficult for movies like this to get made?
There's a whole bunch of factors, and one of them is just the state of the industry, unfortunately. The movie industry isn't special — the middle class is disappearing, and it's happening in movies, too. These films that they used to make for $10 million or $20 million, where the financial stakes weren't as high, they're disappearing. They're not as willing to spend money on that. They want to spend money on franchise movies or things that they know the kids are going to see on the weekends — that sounded like such an old person, but you know what I mean.

Do you see yourself doing more projects like this going forward?
I'm not sure if I want to begin a movie anytime soon. It was a lot of responsibility. But I definitely want to write more, and I hope that I can continue to write things that feel realistic and maybe slightly innovative, maybe left of center. And Will and I are really excited to write something else.

Why did it take so long for someone to cast Elijah Wood as a gay best friend? Because he was great.
[Laughs] You know, I don't know. He's probably been busy doing lots of other really cool things.

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Television at the movies

Get a sneak peek at Fox's new sitcoms

The new Fox comedies "Ben and Kate" and "The Mindy Project" are already topping many TV critics' "best new sitcom" lists — and now you can get a sneak peek at the early faves. Fox is holding a special screening of "Ben and Kate" and "The Mindy Project," followed by a live-streamed Q&A panel with stars from the shows, as well as the cast of "Raising Hope" and "New Girl," the returning comedies rounding out the network's new Tuesday night lineup this fall. You must RSVP for the event, which takes place on Sunday at 8 p.m. at AMC Boston Common 19 (175 Tremont St., Boston). RSVP to foxtuesdayboston@alliedim.com.

METRO

Mindy Kaling stars in "The Mindy Project."

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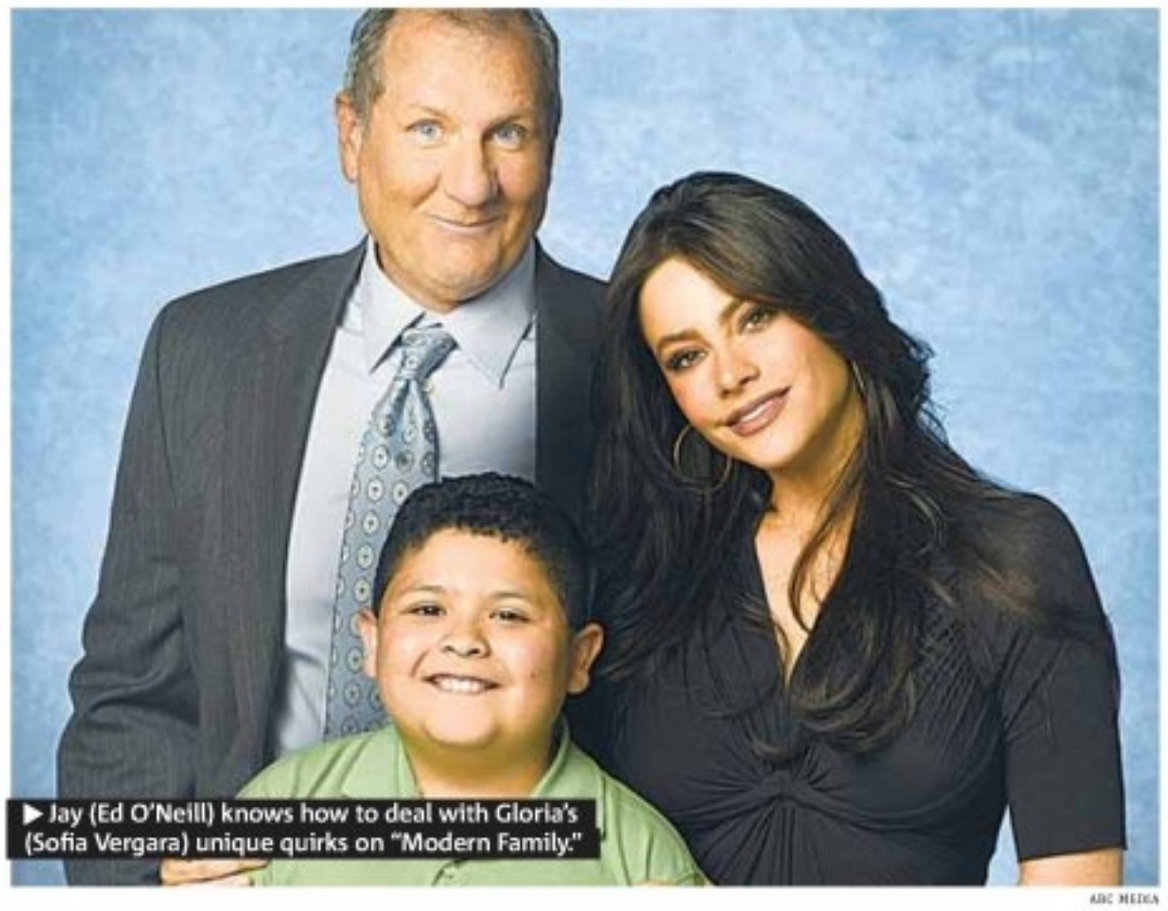
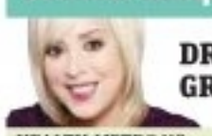
Can you change your partner?


▶ Jay (Ed O'Neill) knows how to deal with Gloria's (Sofia Vergara) unique quirks on "Modern Family."
ABC MEDIA

Shrink wrap



DR. JANE GREER
HEALTH.METRO.US

It's the same old story: We meet someone, fall in love and then want to mold them to be more the way we think he or she should be. In a recent episode of "Modern Family," Jay complains about how his wife Gloria is so vain that she never wears a coat and always wears high heels — even to Disneyland! It drives him nuts. He repeatedly has to suffer through her hobbling and grumpiness because she's in pain. No matter how many times he begs her to make a different choice, she refuses.

In every relationship, one partner complains about the other's bad or annoying behavior that they want to change. She never calls when she says she will. He is always at least 20 minutes late. It takes him three days to do the dishes. She never makes the bed. From starting a relationship to living together, there's always going to be something. You do everything in your bag of tricks to try to get them to stop. You get mad, you threaten, you ignore. Nothing works. The harder you try, the more upset you become. You start to feel even more controlled by their behavior.

"Instead of trying to get that person to make the change, take the situation into your own hands and alter the way you deal with it."
GREER

Instead of trying to get that person to make the change, take the situation into your own hands and alter the way you deal with it. If he refuses to make plans, give him a window and then make your own plans. If she never calls, call her or just expect that she won't call when she said she would. Take control and then let go.

On "Modern Family," Jay got creative and finally figured that out. At Disneyland, while Gloria was hobbling around angrily in her high heels, Jay bought her princess slippers. She hesitated, and then she eased her feet into them and relaxed, asking if they could buy more. It was just what they both needed.

— Relationship expert ***Dr. Jane Greer*** *is creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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Reader love notes

Send us your love notes

E-mail **lovenotes@metro.us** with your special message and we'll print it in the next dating section. Please keep your note to 20 characters or fewer.

▶ *Dear Jahlil, My luck was at its height when we met. You're my personal sunshine, and for that my love for you is infinite. Love Dookie <3*

▶ ***Wiley, You are the man I have waited my whole life for and now will never let you go! Ti Amo xoxo***

▶ *Hey baby cakes, I love you so much and I miss you. I know we can get through anything. — Dragon <3*

▶ ***K8-E, it was so good to meet you at the Poison concert! Thanks for giving me your number. Sorry I'm a dope for not calling you, but my divorce is complicated. Every rose has its thorn, but I need to make out with you again!***

▶ *Monmon — You make our days brighter with livestream puppy Corgie videos. What would we do without you?? NYMFD*

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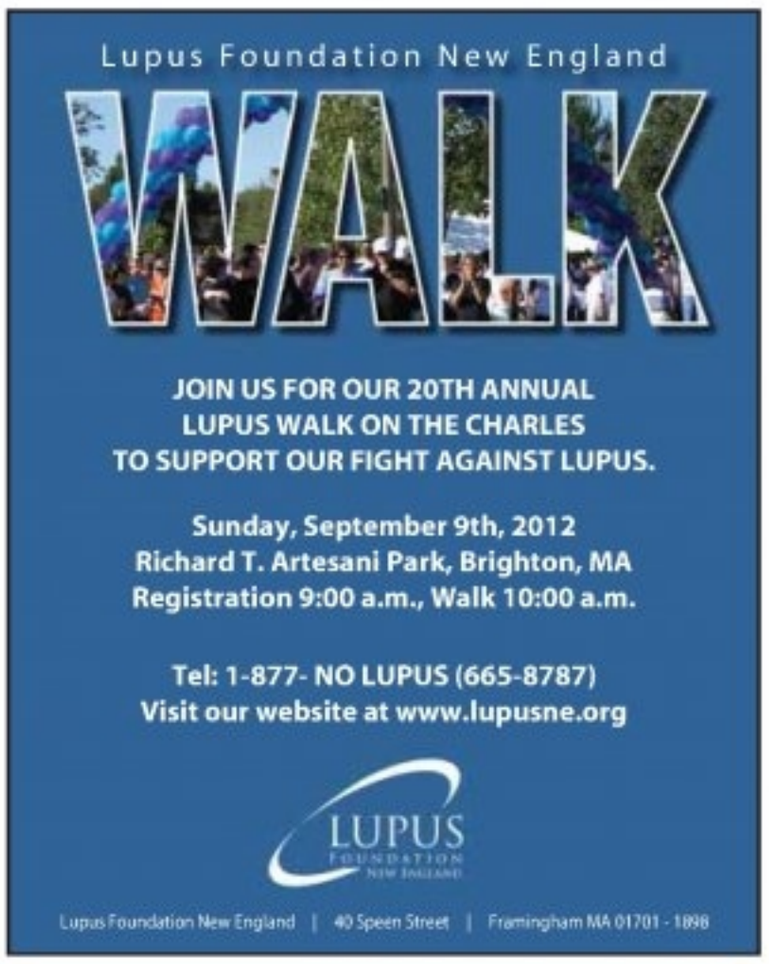
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Letters

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Because the Greeks have such a good grip on economics

RE: "DONE ANYTHING FOR YOUR COUNTRY LATELY?" (METRO, AUG. 21) If President Kennedy was in office today, the "haves" would have less and the "have nots" would have more. The oil depletion allowance that JFK planned to eliminate in 1964 is one example.

The disparity between what CEOs make today and the wages of the working man must be a thousand times greater now than when JFK was president.

Expecting the more affluent in society to help out the less fortunate goes back to Greek philosophy.

That is something Romney, Ryan and the Rich (R,R &R) just can't understand.

If Abraham Lincoln looked down and saw so few people of color at a GOP rally, he would not be very proud of the Republican party today.
LARRY BLONG, VIA E-MAIL

GOP the party in love with plastic

RE: "DONE ANYTHING FOR YOUR COUNTRY LATELY?" (METRO, AUG. 21) Mr. McLaughlin's analogy is completely backwards. A look at recent history would show that it is the Democratic Party that has adhered far more rigorously to the pay-as-you-go notion of legislation, while it was the Republicans who put two wars, Medicare Part D and massive tax cuts for the wealthy on a credit card for someone else to pay for.
MARC BESCHLER, VIA E-MAIL

Don't make US fall flat on its face

RE: "TAX RETURN DEBATE CAN REFORM RATES": (METRO, AUG. 22) Listen, capitalism is not a fair system, and the only thing that makes it a fair system is progressive taxation. Let's return to the principles that made this nation great and drop the flat-tax scam.
MASON SKY, VIA E-MAIL

Gays hate those who oppose their rights!

RE: "GAY RIGHTS SIDES NOT MADE EQUAL" (METRO, AUG. 21) Mr. Day: Oh, but yes, pro-gay chants and standoffs do in fact condemn the anti-gay groups. Consider the proclaimed liberal "free thinking and tolerance" stand you claim to have, yet you condemn those with other opinions as intolerant of differences. Sir, the pro-gay groups are intolerant of anti-gay people and choices as well. In that regard, both sides are fighting the same battle: "intolerance of differences." Pro-gay people do in fact impose their moral judgments on the anti-gay marriage people with their own condemning rhetoric.
CATHY WEISENBURGER, VIA E-MAIL

It is interesting that the gay community gets so fired up about anyone who opposes their agenda. I thought they are so open and loving. I know gay couples and personally have no problem with their lifestyle, although many gays and lesbians hate people who state feelings/beliefs against their lifestyle. Are our First Amendment rights limited to only those that agree with our own beliefs? Ask a devout Muslim if they believe in gay marriages. That would be an interesting conversation.
JOHN ARSLANIAN, VIA E-MAIL

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Horoscope

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Your powers of observation are especially sharp — which is well and good, provided you don't start nitpicking to others about things you think they're doing incorrectly.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Possibilities for gain look better than usual for you. In fact, when it comes to a group involvement, you will likely be the one who guides things to a financially successful conclusion.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Taking pride in what you do is an admirable thing. However, being proud purely for vanity's sake is something else again. Be able to distinguish between the two.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** To operate more effectively, you should do your best not to call attention to yourself or your activities. If you allow outside influences to get involved, you'll get thrown off course.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Although you might think that you'd enjoy a little solitude, you'd be much happier engaging in a group activity. Being a loner isn't apt to pay off, spiritually or financially.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** An important objective can be achieved if you give it your full dedication. If you start questioning your convictions, however, things are likely to grind to a halt.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** This is an excellent day to take on projects that require a creative touch and a dash of imagination. Light up the room if you've got a bright idea.

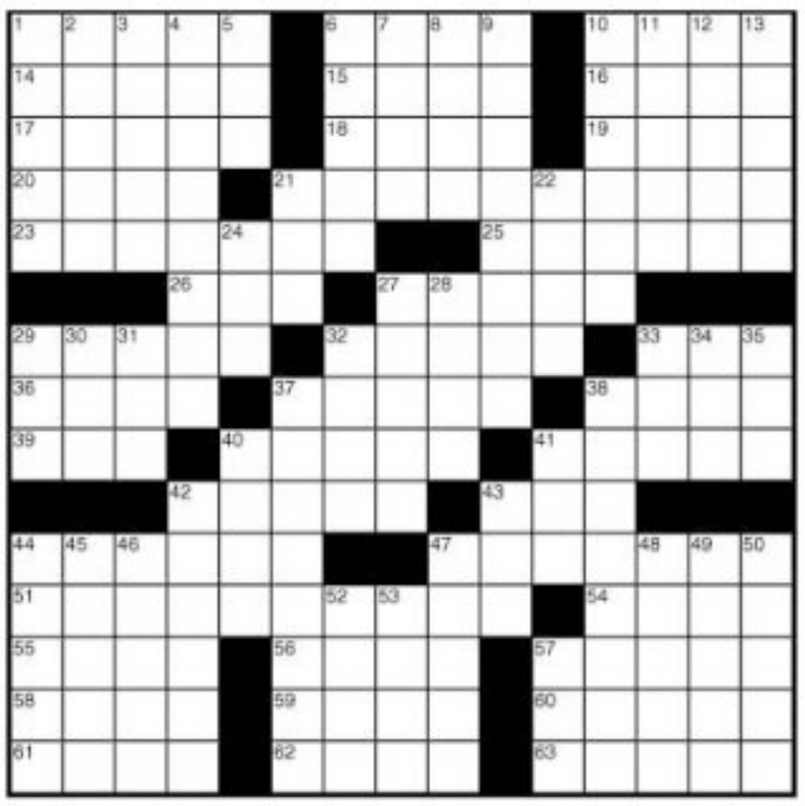
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Being inflexible almost always works against you, especially if you happen to be involved in a joint endeavor. Be as intellectually mobile as possible.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** When it comes to matters where you allow your feelings to color your judgment, you'll suffer. Do your best to keep emotions out of your decision-making and to view things logically.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** An immense feeling of gratification is likely to come from being of service to another. Don't be reluctant to put yourself out for someone.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Your organizational abilities are apt to be a shade or two sharper than usual, so don't hesitate to use them to your advantage. Start with tackling a big project or two.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** It will be up to you to guide an important endeavor to a successful conclusion. Take things one step at a time, and make sure you don't leave anything up to chance.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
1 Party paper
6 Char
10 Wild guess
14 Cinnamon goodies
15 Strongly advise
16 Grant territory
17 Project starters
18 Synthesizer inventor
19 Meat-grading org.
20 Faction
21 Old car (2 wds.)
23 Chesapeake Bay feeder
25 Iguana
26 Apprehend
27 Deli hero
29 Hindu rope-climber
32 Salamanders
33 Flat-needled tree
36 Sweeping, as a story
37 Girl at a ball
38 Wait
39 Path to satori
40 Abodes
41 Food on a skewer
42 Exorcist's quarry
43 "__ Baby Baby" (Ronstadt tune)
44 Pharaoh's amulet
47 1950s card game
51 Snoop (2 wds.)
54 String instr.
55 A funny Johnson
56 Genuine
57 Eeyore's creator
58 Averages
59 Kind of straits
60 Weatherman Al __
61 Job opening
62 Haughty type
63 Secret rendezvous

Down
1 Firm and fresh
2 Calf-roping event
3 Put in office
4 Kind of relationship
5 Slalom run
6 Wild shrub
7 Aphrodite's child
8 Beside oneself
9 Control
10 Wretched
11 Physicist Nikola __
12 Snake or calculator
13 Goat feature
21 Talk on and on
22 Sharp turns
24 Impair
27 Hunt or Reddy
28 Night fliers
29 Shriner's hat
30 Tarzan's nanny
31 Reunion crowd
32 Verne captain
33 White lie
34 NW state
35 Gray-clad soldier
37 Peppers
38 Conduct
40 Stack
41 "__ Tiki"
42 Most arid
43 Paddle cousin
44 Ginger cookies
45 Snorkeler's sight
46 Kind of turf
47 Glitterati member
48 Lustrous
49 __ down (softens)
50 Paying attention
52 Harness part
53 Syrup brand
57 A-Team member (2 wds.)

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	6				5	1		
9		1				4	7	6

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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	3			5		9	6	
	5	9	1					2
					4			1
		7	9		5	2		
4			7					
2					1	8	7	
	4	5		8			2	
		1			2			3

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

G	E	R	B	I	L	■	I	F	S	■	R	A	R	E
O	V	E	R	D	O	■	L	E	E	■	A	L	I	T
B	E	F	A	L	L	■	L	I	L	■	T	U	T	U
■	■	W	E	L	L	I	N	F	O	R	M	E	D	■
B	A	I	L	S	■	O	N	T	■	P	A	S	S	E
E	L	M	S	■	J	A	I	■	N	E	C	■	■	■
L	E	A	■	D	O	N	■	B	O	R	E	D	O	M
L	U	G	■	U	K	E	■	R	I	A	■	A	H	A
S	T	E	E	L	E	R	■	I	R	S	■	F	A	N
■	■	■	D	U	D	■	A	D	E	■	C	O	R	E
C	L	O	U	T	■	S	P	A	■	A	R	E	A	S
H	O	T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	■	■	■
E	T	T	A	■	B	A	G	■	G	O	O	B	E	R
S	T	E	T	■	O	L	E	■	E	L	L	E	R	Y
T	O	R	E	■	E	Y	E	■	S	L	E	D	G	E

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music

Hang the blessed DJ

Yes, Andy Rourke was once part of The Smiths But now he's behind the turntable with one humble mission 'I just play some songs that I've grown up with and I love and hope people enjoy it,' he says

▶ "I'm probably still not a serious DJ," says Rourke.

HOWARD BARLOW/C/BEDFERN/GETTY IMAGES

Everyone is a DJ now — but there are two qualities that come in handy if you want to be considered a good one: a sense of rhythm and impeccable taste. In both regards, playing bass for a little band called The Smiths is pretty good training. Andy Rourke, the erstwhile member of the beloved Manchester band just might have this thing figured out then. He performs a DJ set on a bill at the Middle East tonight that would have already been big even without the headliner — it's something of a Voltron-like lineup of DJs from Boston's better dance parties: Throwed, The Pill and Rescue.

"I don't know that there was a certain point where I said 'I'm a serious DJ,'" he says by phone from his NYC rooftop, where he's recording a video for his new musical project. "I'm probably still not a serious DJ. It happened by accident."

He was living in Manchester seven years ago when a friend, veteran UK DJ Tintin convinced him to play some records at a club. "I said, 'I don't DJ.' He said, 'Bring some CDs and have fun,' and it all started from there."

"I'm still a musician first and foremost, but it's something I just have fun with. I don't do anything fancy, like wicky wicky, Wheels of Steel and all that. I just play some songs that I've grown up with and I love and hope people enjoy it. So far, so good."

Aside from DJing, he's been working on music under the name Jetlag for four years with partner and vocalist Ole Koretsky, and has enough material ready for a forthcoming album. The music they've written, he says, is a mix of "avant-garde electronica" from Koretsky, "then I come in and put real bass and guitars on there, and it turns into Jetlag."

On top of that, Rourke hosts a weekly radio show on East Village Radio, also called Jetlag, and has a TV show in the works where he'll interview younger bands. Do they look up to him?

"I'm like the Godfather," he jokes. "Anybody can go interview a band, but they give me a little bit more attention because of my history. ... I'm not domineering or anything like that. Hopefully I don't scare them. ... They don't give me flippant answers, they give me the real answers, which is nice."

LUKE O'NEIL
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If you go

Throwed, The Pill and Rescue present
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472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
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www.mideastclub.com

Looking back

Ask me, ask me, ask me

"Are you going to ask me if The Smiths are going to reform?" asks Rourke at one point in the interview. We spare him, but he has to be glad that people care about something he was a part of, right?

"It's like a mold that is growing on people; they seem to like it more and more. Bands from the '80s just disappeared into dust, but more and more people keep talking about us, which is great. I'm very humbled by that. I love it."

Songza

Summer love

Inspired by sunshine and over in a flash, nothing says summer like a fling that puts your head in the clouds and makes your heart skip a beat. Let the songs at www.songza.com/listen/summer-fling-songz stir up memories of that brief summer romance you'll never forget. The playlist is almost four hours of sunny songs that span genres, like "I've Just Seen a Face" by The Beatles, "Sweet Life" by Frank Ocean and "The Most Beautiful Girl (in the Room)" by Flight of the Conchords, pictured. And let's be honest — that last song pretty much sums up your summer romance: You picked the hottest person around and made something happen. Hey, don't feel guilty; that's exactly what he or she did with you too! METRO *— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems so you don't have to. Each week Metro and Songza bring you fun new playlists.*

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jemaine and Bret think you could be a part-time model.

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food&drink

Soak up the OAK

The Fairmont Copley Plaza has opened up its Long Bar + Kitchen for more customers No secret knock is necessary here, just an appreciation of good food

FAIRMONT COPLEY PLAZA

▶ It's not Downton Abbey, it's the Oak Room at OAK Long Bar + Kitchen.

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN

LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

Cali-chards notwithstanding, there's actually more oak in the Fairmont Copley Plaza's utterly splendid new OAK Long Bar + Kitchen. The supposedly "oak-paneled" Oak Room was lined with oak effect painted plaster!

The room's transformation from its fusty, old-boys-club feel begins with a grand new entrance carved out on St. James Street, which welcomes one and all. Previously, you entered through the hotel lobby, which effectively cut off passersby from passing in.

Without losing its sense of history — the hotel hit 100 this month — the space has morphed into a light, fresh and open plan. Yet it's palatial and elegant, with beige burlap-ish covered couches that add an earthy touch to the room's marble and gilt backdrop. But don't think prettiness and ladies-who-lunch: There is that masculine, 80-foot, copper-topped bar as a solid anchor.

Behind the bar, which extends into an open kitchen, a stone wood-burning oven adds a homey visual element and from it comes a succulent wild mushroom and free-range egg flatbread and superb oysters Rockefeller, creamy and delicately flavored with anise. Chef Stefan Jarausch adds wonderful summer salads, like butterleaf lettuce with crunchy sunflower seeds, goat cheese, and a light lime-yogurt dressing. Heartier dishes include tagliatelle tossed with big chunks of lobster and a zucchini sauce, and topped with tender braised short rib.

Know your history

In 1912, the Fairmont Copley Plaza opened with a restaurant called the Copley Café, which became the Merry-Go-Round Bar in 1934. A carousel footprint is etched into the current flooring.

If you go

OAK Long Bar + Kitchen
138 St. James Ave., Boston
617-585-7222
www.oaklongbar kitchen.com

In 1978, it became the Plaza Bar and Dining Room, which morphed into the Oak Room in 1996.

OAK Long Bar + Kitchen keeps original features that were uncovered or restored, including the original gilded, molded ceiling and early 20th-century oil paintings.

Entrees range from $19 to $39.

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By Kevin Kerdis
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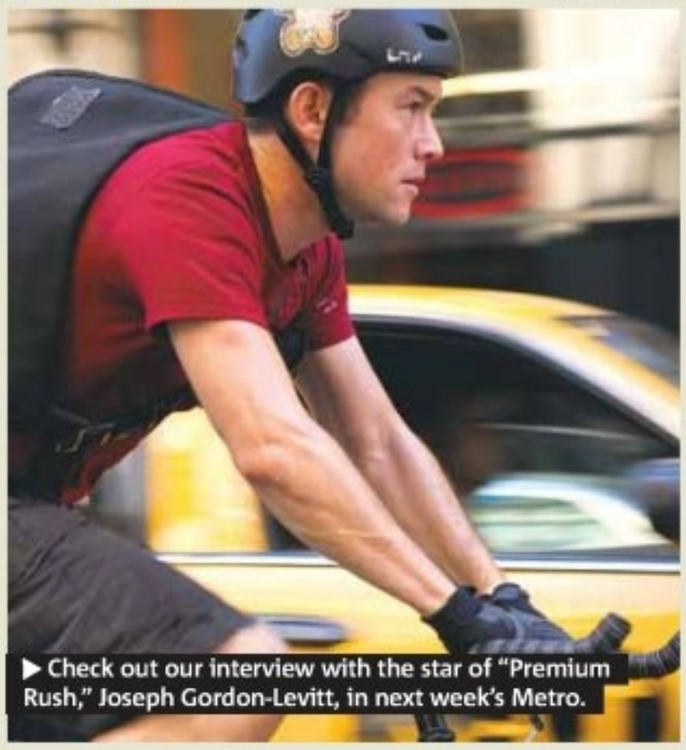

▶ Check out our interview with the star of "Premium Rush," Joseph Gordon-Levitt, in next week's Metro.

1 'Premium Rush'
"The Dark Knight Rises" co-star Joseph Gordon-Levitt takes center stage in this high-energy thriller about a bike messenger who finds he's carrying a package that everyone seems to want.

2 'The Apparition'
With the arrival of late August comes the first horror films we've seen since the thaw of winter. In this one, "Twilight" star Ashley Greene plays a student setting out to prove that the mind can conjure a ghost. She's successful at doing that, unfortunately for her.

3 'Hit and Run'
Real-life couple Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell star in this film about a reformed criminal whose bank-robbing buddies return to settle a debt.

4 'The Expendables 2'
Sylvester Stallone once again leads an all-star cast of some of the biggest action stars around in this testosterone-fueled romp about a group of world-class mercenaries.

5 'ParaNorman'
In the tradition of quirky supernatural children's films comes "ParaNorman," a stop-motion flick about a boy who is tasked with saving his town from an undead uprising. METRO

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▶ Trey Anastasio

On sale today

▶ **Trey Anastasio**
Oct. 27, The Orpheum
(On sale at 10 a.m.)

On sale Friday

▶ **Joss Stone**
Oct. 15, House of Blues

▶ **Radio929 presents Silversun Pickups**
with Cloud Nothings, Atlas Genius
Oct. 17, The Orpheum

▶ **Adventure Club**
Oct. 25, Royale

▶ **Gov't Mule**
Oct. 26, The Orpheum

▶ **John Legend**
With Lianne La Havas
Oct. 30, Citi Performing Arts Center Wang Theatre

▶ **Chris Isaak**
Nov. 11, The Orpheum

▶ **Kreayshawn**
with Rye Rye
Nov. 16, Royale

▶ **Streetlight Manifesto**
with Hostage Calm
Nov. 24, Royale

Ain't 'Going Out' like that

Dropkick Murphys prepare a new album They've been busy thinking about Mr. T and songs that fans can sing along with during big arena shows

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

Matt Kelly's to-do list on the day he calls Metro includes grocery shopping, quarterly taxes and trying to come up with song titles for the Dropkick Murphys' eighth album. The drummer says the challenge of the last task is figuring out which of the temporary titles they have are worth holding onto.

"We had one called 'Van Morrison Choppy' at one time and that became 'The State of Massachusetts,'" he says of one of the finer tracks from their 2007 album "The Meanest of Times."

On the chopping block this time around is one they're calling "Scrubber Lang" for now.

"Like Mr. T's character in 'Rocky III,'" says Kelly. "But instead of Clubber Lang, it's 'Scrubber' because during the verses the guitars and bass scrub through it."

It's good to hear you're working on new stuff.

Surely people thought that by titling your 2011 album "Going Out In Style" that it might be the last.

I guess it's sort of a double entendre, like getting gussied up and literally going out in style with some sweet duds. But yeah, the double entendre does make people talk, I guess. I don't want to say if it was calculated or not.

Coming off of that album, which had a conceptual arc, does that up the ante for a follow-up?

Well, this isn't a concept album. The other one was a concept album almost by mistake. About three-quarters of the way through, we realized when we were writing the lyrics that a lot of the stories had a common ground, and it's something me and Ken [Casey, singer and bassist] talked about for years, since like the very early days. And you have limitations with a concept album, because if you start with a concept, you can only work within those parameters.

In the time since you released "Going Out in Style" you've graduated to bigger venues. Does that change the way you approach songwriting? Is there a more conscious effort to say, "What will get a whole stadium of people singing along?"

Well, that's the thing: We don't tailor our songs for that, but ever since "Barroom Hero," which was the first song the band ever wrote, it's been, "What's going to sound awesome being shouted out live?" We're influenced by bands like Cock Sparrer, Stiff Little Fingers and The Clash, and that's all sing-along stuff. That's the kind of stuff we cut our teeth on, and that's like the natural stuff we want to emulate.

What's been the biggest sing-along you've inspired? Was it at the Fenway gig last year?

No. That was a big one, but we did Hellfest in France. That was 50,000 people, something like that. We also played Rock Werchter [a festival in Belgium] the last tour we did, and I don't know how many people were there, but there were people beyond what the eye can see just singing along, and it was spine-tingling!

Which song do most people sing along to? "I'm Shipping Up to Boston"?

Nah, it was probably "The Wild Rover." Our version of that apparently charted very high in Belgium, so that was a big one. You know, I think "I'm Shipping Up to Boston" goes over well, but it's almost more of a States thing. ... You see one or two kids in the front row who are bored out of their minds until that song comes on, then they leave. But in a lot of other places, like the non-major markets in Europe, where we've been established for years and years, people are just singing every word to every song. It's so cool to see that kind of loyalty and that sort of memorization, for crying out loud. It's a lot of songs, and a lot of words.

If you go

Dropkick Murphys
Sept. 21
Bank of America Pavilion
290 Northern Ave, Boston,
$36-$55, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

Q&A

What else can you reveal about the new album?

In general, I think this album has a little more of a harder edge to it than the last one, but it definitely has the same style. It's more fiendish, musically, a little more aggressive and muscular. More aggressive, let's say, than "The Meanest of Times," but it has the melody and styles of the last album.

The Dropkick Murphys are, from left, Josh "Scruffy" Wallace, James Lynch, Tim Brennan, Jeff DaRosa, Matt Kelly, Al Barr and Ken Casey.

Also onstage

Kitty Pryde

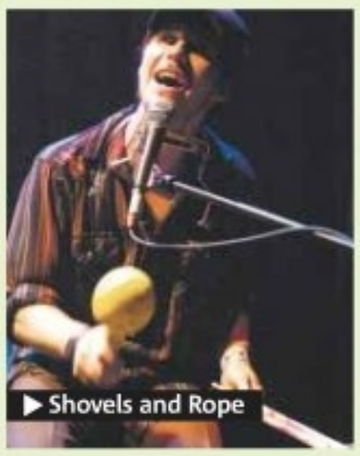
Tonight, 9 p.m.
Brighton Music Hall
158 Brighton Ave., Allston
$12, 18+, 617-779-0140
www.brightonmusichall.com

This rapper/producer's stage name is an X-Men reference, and her Bandcamp background is all cutesy Japanese cartoon characters — both signs of geek irony. It abounds in her smart-ass rhymes, but her heavy, trippy beats, dank as all get-out, tell a different story: This kid intends to be taken seriously.

▶ "Now you're tryin' ta dip without me/But I'm the princess/ Read my lip, it's pouty." Kitty Pryde lives what she raps.
KITTY PRYDE

Shovels and Rope

Saturday, 7 p.m.
Johnny D's Uptown
17 Holland St., Somerville
$12-$42, 617-776-2004


▶ Shovels and Rope

www.johnnyds.com

This folk/country duo from Charleston, S.C., keeps things simple — just a couple guitars and a junkyard drum kit. It helps focus attention on their excellent songs and beautifully close male/female harmonies. There's a natural feeling to their sound, like you could be hearing this from the bedroom window across the street — but you'd be lucky to have such talented neighbors.

MATTHEW DINARO

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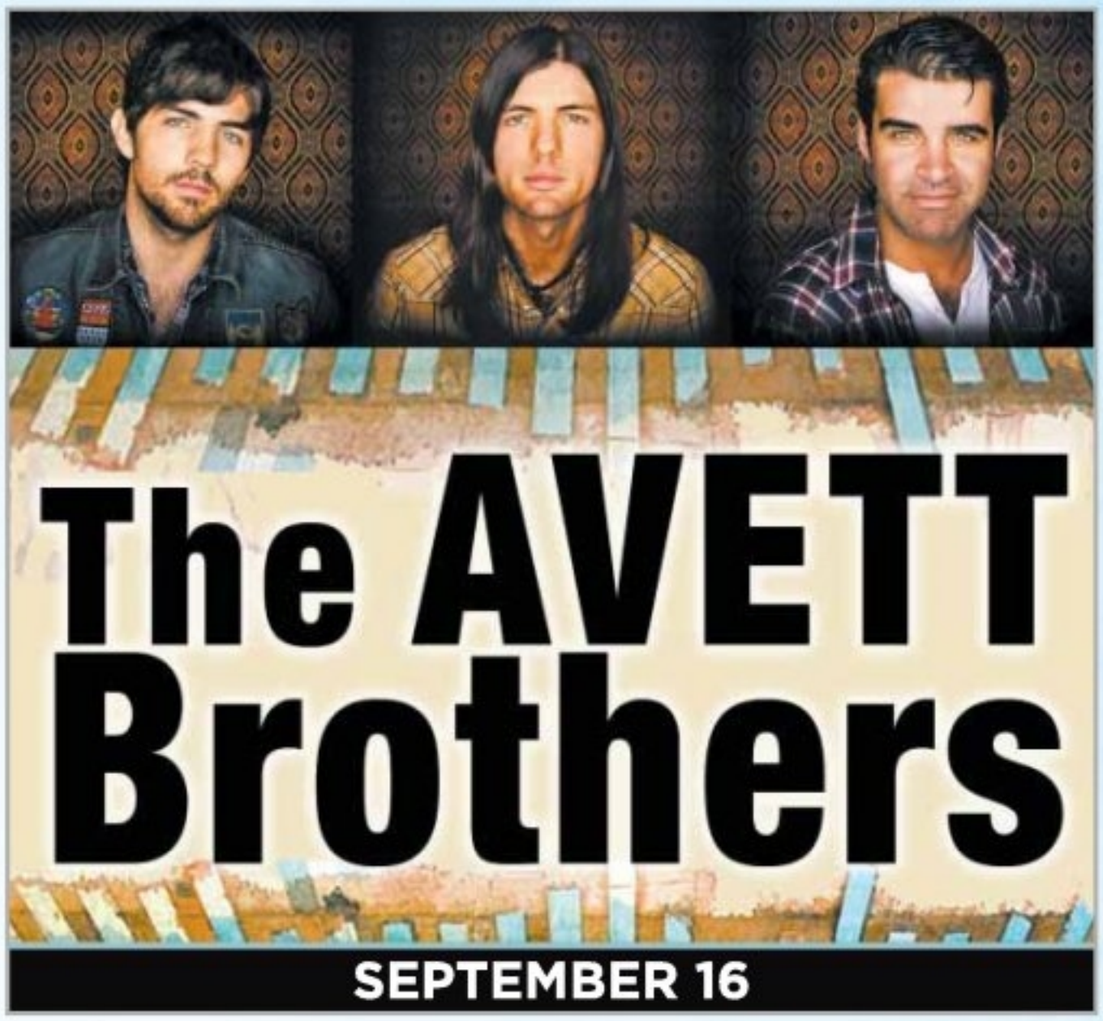

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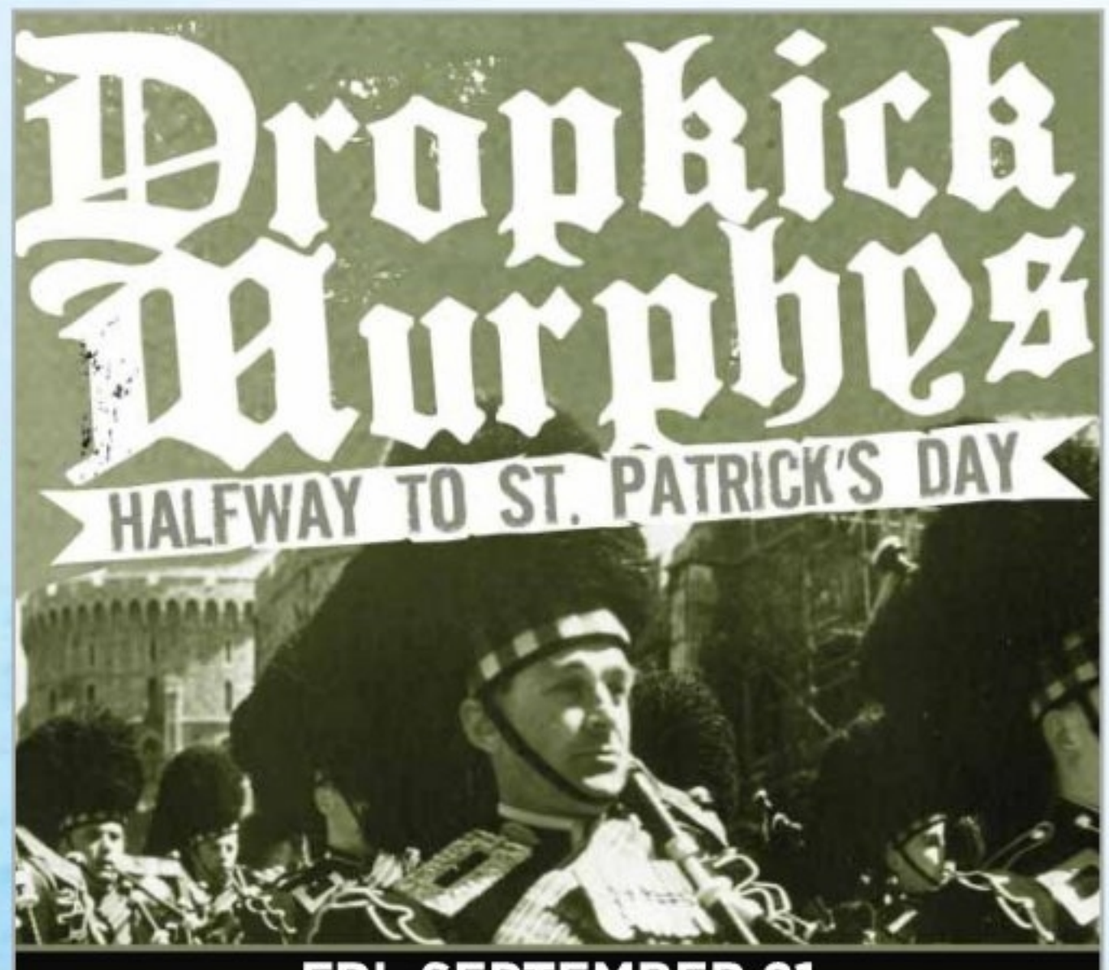

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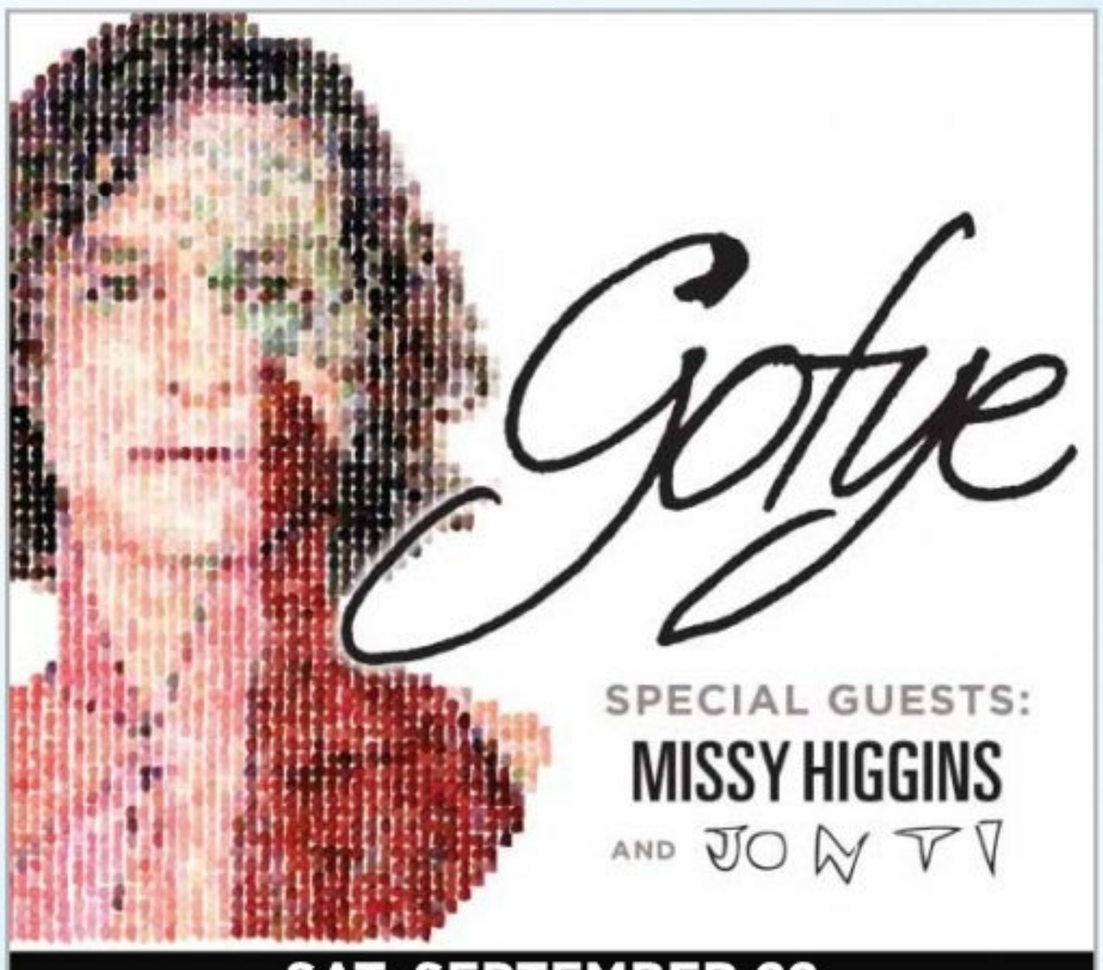

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3

Pats preseason

Line help

The Patriots most glaring weakness in the preseason has been the poor play of the offensive line. Yesterday, the team got a sizable boost in the form of the return of tackle Sebastian Vollmer. Vollmer was at practice in Tampa, Fla., as New England held a joint session with the Buccaneers. He took the place of Marcus Cannon on the team's first unit. The Pats play the Bucs Friday in their third preseason game. Quarterback Tom Brady is expected to play the entire first half and possibly beyond.

ON TV TODAY

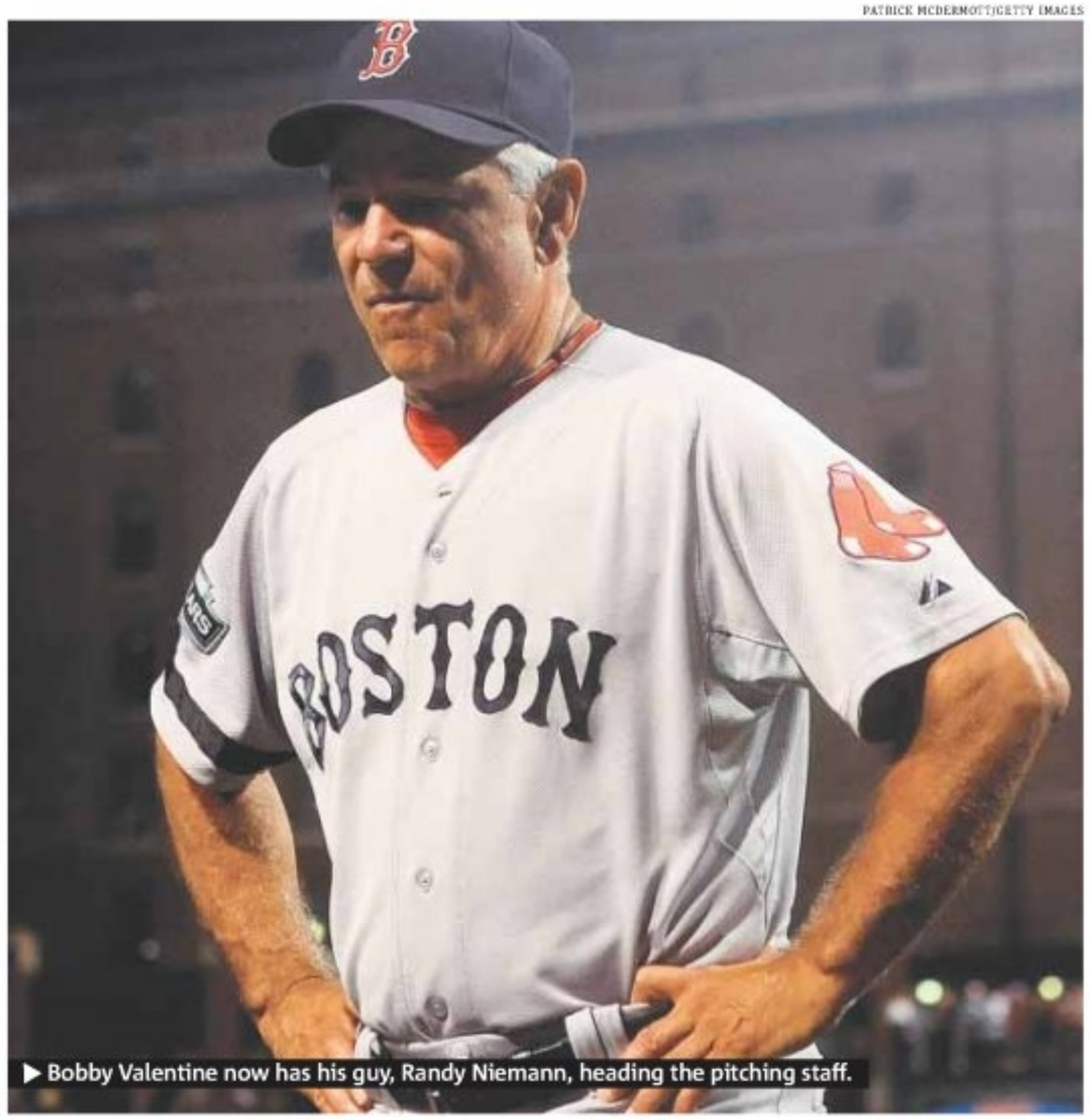
MLB

ANGELS AT RED SOX
7 P.M., NESN

Plans to stick around?

Bobby Valentine finally seems to be getting his way ◗ Is it a sign that he could actually be back in 2013? ◗ Management mum

PATRICK MCDERMOTT/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Bobby Valentine now has his guy, Randy Niemann, heading the pitching staff.

Don't look at it as a firing. Think of it as a promotion. And maybe, just maybe, a redemption. Bob McClure is out as Red Sox pitching coach, as the Red Sox attempt to unbuild the wreckage pile that is the 2012 season.

Does that reclamation project now include manager Bobby Valentine?

McClure's ouster, after a season of silent defiance by the pitching coach against Valentine — and in the immediate aftermath of the clubhouse Soxting scandal — can be taken as an unspoken vote of confidence for the embattled manager. There was a more public statement made by management days after the so-called "Round Table," meetings in New York in late July. When the apparent impetus for those meetings became a major media event this past week, the Red Sox again backed Bobby, and this time followed the words with a deed.

Coming concurrently with the announcement of Carl Crawford's season-ending Tommy John surgery, and with the team hopelessly behind in the Wild Card race, the team's focus has now shifted toward 2013. So, what better time to rid themselves one of their most-toxic scenarios?

The Valentine-McClure ticket was doomed from the beginning, with McClure clearly not Valentine's choice for the job, but still had the pitching coach forced upon him. The two rarely, if ever, talked, including during games after McClure's visits to the mound. Then, recently, McClure left the team to tend to a matter with one of his young children. In a radio interview, Valentine called it a "vacation," before correcting himself, but the animosity behind it was unmistakable.

If there was a living, breathing symbol of that dysfunction, it was the man in the middle — baseball's only assistant pitching coach, Randy Niemann. If McClure was the anti-Bobby, then Niemann's promotion to replace McClure as pitching coach makes for a happy Valentine. Niemann has been one of Bobby's guys dating back to Valentine's tenure as Mets manager, serving as his bullpen coach. Now, for the first time this season, Valentine has one of "his guys" working with him and watching his back.

For the first time, management has sent a signal that, far from preparing to bow to the recalcitrant players in the clubhouse, the team is showing it is serious about making the Bobby Experiment work – at least until after next season, when John Farrell's contract with Toronto is up.

JEFF GOLDBERG
sports@metro.us

Arm's reach

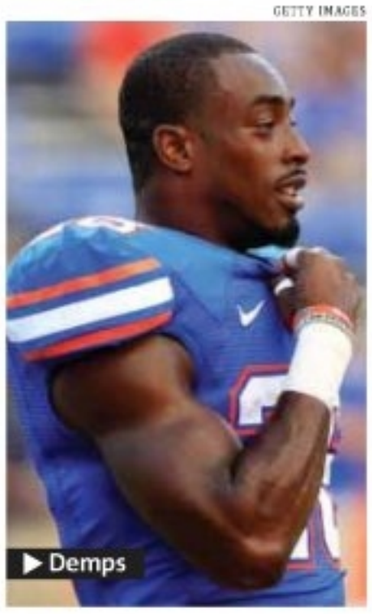
New pitching coach Randy Niemann will look to get something out of the following starters:

- **Franklin Morales** has struggled in his last two outings, losses to the Yankees and Indians.
- **Jon Lester** has been hot recently, allowing just two earned runs in his last two games.
- **Josh Beckett** hasn't won a game since July 15.

Quoted

"We're going to work hard this last month to address (the staff ERA) and make it better."
RANDY NIEMANN TO WEEI.COM

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Demps

Olympic sprinter the newest Patriot

Flashy taunts, ridiculous touchdown celebrations and jawing have long been a part of the National Football League.

While the Olympics prides itself on class, there is one particular event that took place in London two weeks ago that embraced smack-talk and the like. Prior to the start of nearly every sprinting event, runners would make gestures or have one-way conversations with the camera, doing their best Ali-impressions.

Quoted

"I'm used to just jumping right into (football) coming off of track season. So it was basically the same transition except the guys are a lot bigger."
PATS RUNNING BACK AND OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALIST JEFF DEMPS

Speed, sizzle and smack are ingrained in both football and track. While Jeff Demps is a tad less brash than the Usain Bolts of the world, he is hoping to bring some of that track swagger to the NFL. Demps, who won a silver medal in the 4x100 relay in London, is looking to latch on with the Patriots.

"It's just a blessing to come from the Olympics and come to a football field," Demps said yesterday. "It's a blessing. Not many people do that, so it's just a blessing to do that."

Demps dashed for 2,470 yards and 23 touchdowns with perennial SEC powerhouse Florida, but was not drafted by any NFL teams this past spring. Instead, he was focused on London and grabbing a medal. Just days after accomplishing the feat, he's looking for a roster spot on one of the top teams in the NFL.

"I always had a football background," Demps said. "I'm a football player first."

MATT BURKE

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